CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method of selecting a tester design comprising:

selecting one or more design alternatives,

constructing a classifier for each alternative using sample data,

construction Operating Characteristics curves for each classifier, and

selecting a design alternative based on the Operating Characteristic curves.

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2.   The method of Claim 1 where the step of selecting a design alternative further

comprises:

weighting each Operating Characteristics curve using cost constraints to form a result,

and

15   selecting the Operating Characteristics curve with the minimal result.

3.   The method of Claim 1 where classifiers for each alternative are constructed from

sample data gathered through data acquisition.

20   4.   The method of Claim 3 where data acquisition uses a factorial design when more than

one alternative is present.

5.   The method of Claim 3 where data acquisition uses a one-way layout when only one

alternative is present.

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6.   A computer readable medium that includes executable instructions for processing

sequence number information used in communications protocols, said computer readable

medium comprising:

code for selecting one or more design alternatives,

30   code for constructing a classifier for each alternative using sample data,

code for construction Operating Characteristics curves for each classifier, and

code for selecting a design alternative based on the Operating Characteristic curves.

7.   The computer readable medium of Claim 6 where the code for selecting a design alternative further comprises:

code for weighting each Operating Characteristics curve using cost constraints to form a result, and

5   code for selecting the Operating Characteristics curve with the minimal result.